

# WHY WOULD ANY WOMAN WANT A DROP IN STATUS?

The Rebbe said these words on Vov Tishrei 5734 (September 1973). See *Sichos Kodesh Tof Shin Lamed Daled*, or visit [nsheichabadnewsletter.com/archives](http://nsheichabadnewsletter.com/archives), search words: "Chana Editorial." Thank you, Rabbi Motty Lipskier, for finding this timeless and precious sichah for us.-Ed.

...Some mistakenly claim, "It is a victory for a woman to be the same as a man, and therefore she has to try and do battle to prove that she can hold the same position as a man. She, too, can leave home early in the morning and come home late at night, tired. In this way she shows she is not inferior to him, for she can do exactly what he does."

The *haftorah* [about Chana the prophetess] comes to teach us that this mindset is based on a false worldview, and is only a way to shake off that which Hashem has placed on a woman.

[Even if it is not a career we are talking about,] an intelligent Jewish mother, or one who is preparing to be a mother, can busy herself in many valuable endeavors, even something as important as *aliyah l'regel* to Shiloh! And on the way she could have stirred up communities of Jews to join them and also go to Shiloh! But Hashem already gave her something which is even greater than *aliyah l'regel* in Shiloh. Going up to

Shiloh does not compare with what a woman can accomplish by staying home and making sure the home is built on the foundations of Torah and *mitzvos* in general ... and the *chinuch* of her children in particular.

...Hashem established the home and family so that the man does his part, the woman does her part, and hers is not less important. In fact, maybe, when it comes to the children, her job is more critical than the man's. If both the man and the woman are doing the man's work, who will build and uphold the Yiddishe home?

...some women were required, as a last resort, in order to make *parnassah*, to become busy with jobs outside the home, and they had to leave their homes. R"L a mistaken belief took hold in the world: that the complete fulfillment for a woman is to [do so regardless of need], to be just like a man.

This mistaken belief was fully embraced by our society, and now we see what this has

accomplished... different members of the family are not close with one another, are not united, do not understand one another...

[We must] change the mistake from its source. The man must do his part and the woman must do her part as the *akeres habayis*, which might be even more critical than his. This is not because she is unworthy of the job he holds, but just the opposite—*davka* she was chosen and entrusted with the *chinuch* of the children when they are young, from the moment of birth, and nine months before that too, because she is entrusted with their care even during pregnancy, when they eat what she eats.

For her to assume that she will be fulfilled only if she forgets all this and shows that she can be a good professional, or a good wage-earner, would constitute a drop in status for her.

Not only does she lose her dignity, and underestimate her own strengths, but R"L ... the *kiyum* of

Jewish families may be lost.

This is the heartache... if you take a look at what is going on and what needs to be fixed.

But instead [of fixing the problems], we find Jews who have nothing more to worry about than to tear women away from their true mission, searching for ways to include them in a *minyán*, etc. They make a big [women's liberation] parade out of it, and with this they claim to have lifted women to their true potential?!

These [mistaken people feel they] deserve a big thank-you, and the women celebrate, for now they [believe they] have reached true completion and liberation and fulfillment.

Not even talking about the fact that [much of what they do] is against *minhag Yisroel* and against *halachah*, this affects the survival of Jewish families, which is the foundation of the whole Jewish nation. The woman should be busy with her main work which is *chinuch*, and being an *akeres bayis*, and not lower herself to imitating men. ❧